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Vauxhall (Alta)

Survey of VAUXHALL

Prepared By

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DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY & DEVELOPMENT
Government of the Province of Alberta

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Town of Vauxhall

(Revised August 1962)

1. LOCATION

Section 10-13-16-W4 in Census Division No. 2. This location is 21 miles north of Taber on Highway No. 36 and on the Canadian Pacific Railway branch line Medicine Hat to Calgary.

2. ALTITUDE

2,560 feet Latitude - 50/04 Longitude - 112/07

3. TEMPERATURE

Average summer - 58° F.

Average winter - 29° F.

Average annual - 40° F.

4. RAINFALL

Average annual rainfall - 9.96 inches.

Average annual snowfall - 50.5 inches.

Average annual precipitation - 15.5 inches.

5. GEOLOGY

Geologically the Town of Vauxhall is located at the contact of two types of bedrock. The bedrock west of the town is the Bearpaw formation, while to the east it is the Belly River formation. The Bearpaw formation is younger than the Belly River formation and is composed of marine shales. The Belly River consists of shales, sand shales and sandstone of fresh and brackish water origin. Lethbridge and Taber coal is mined from the Belly River series which is also a horizon in which the fossilized bones of vertibrates of Cretaceous Age are found.

6. SOIL

Vauxhall is in the brown soil zone.

Vegetation

Short grass prairie.

Soil Profile

The surface horizon is about 5 inches deep and brown in color. The sub-soil is commonly brownish in color and lime is found at depths averaging 15 inches below the surface. The parent material is found at depths of 20 to 24 inches. In other zones this horizon occurs at greater depths.

Fertility

Moisture is the principal limiting factor in crop production. Soils in this zone are relatively low in nitrogen and phosphorus and under irrigation or in a wet year respond to fertilizers supplying these elements.

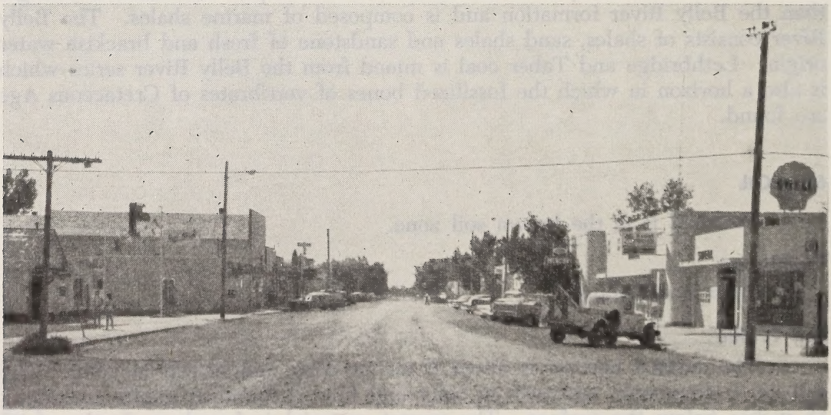
Land Use

Only the most favourable soil types can be considered arable. Most of the area is desirable for ranching. Where farmed, wheat is the principal crop grown. Cropping practices must provide for moisture conservation and control of soil drifting. The long frost-free period makes this zone desirable for the development of irrigation.

7. HISTORY

The land in the Vauxhall area was first surveyed in 1882. Leases were granted to ranchers by the Dominion Government in accordance with regulations established in 1881 which made it possible for a rancher to lease up to 100,000 acres at an annual rental of one cent per acre.

On June 25, 1906, an Order-in-Council was passed by the Dominion Government authorizing the Minister of Interior to allot water and sell land to the Robins Irrigation Company for the purpose of irrigation. This was the beginning of many negotiations which eventually resulted in the formation of the Canada Land and Irrigation Company on July 31, 1917. The Canada Land and Irrigation Company acquired title to approximately 532,000 acres of land, of which 200,000 acres were irrigable. In 1920, 10,000 acres were suppleid with water from the Bow River at a point 45 miles southeast of Calgary. By 1949, 57,000 acres had been brought under irrigation and sold to farmers. This included the area known as the New West Irrigation District and about 4,500 acres of land on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation. On November 1, 1950, the Dominion Government purchased the project for $2,250,000. This project is



Vauxhall's main street is lined with modern stores

now known as the Bow River Project and has been developed to include approximately 100,000 acres of irrigated land.

In 1914 the Canadian Pacific Railway constructed the Suffield-Aldersyde branch.

Vauxhall became a hamlet in 1919 and was named after Vauxhall, London, England. The townsite was surveyed in 1920 and was incorporated as a village on December 31, 1949, and a town on January 1, 1961.

8. LIVING CONDITIONS

Vauxhall is the centre of a large irrigated farming area. The streets are wide and gravelled.

Excellent facilities are available for hunters. Ducks, geese, pheasants and upland game birds are plentiful. Jackfish and goldeye are available in lakes and rivers in the area.

9. ADMINISTRATION

The town is governed by a mayor elected for a two year term, and six councillors, two elected each year for a three year term. The secretary-treasurer administers the affairs of the town in accordance with the policy set by the council.

10. LAW ENFORCEMENT

The town hires two police constables; the Royal Canadian Mounted Police patrol the highway and rural area.

Justice of the Peace.

Building regulations - All new buildings, repairs to buildings or removal of buildings must be approved by council after which a permit is issued.

Electrical installations must comply with the Alberta Electrical Protection Act.

Sanitary installations must comply with the Provincial Health Regulations.

Gas installations must comply with the Alberta Gas Protection Act.

11. FIRE PROTECTION

The fire brigade consists of a fire chief and 12 volunteer firemen.

Equipment - One 1948 500 GPM pumper with 500 gallon tank, one 1941 hose tender, 750 feet of 2½ inch hose, 500 feet of 1½ inch hose, ladders, axes, coats, boots, etc.

Water Supply - Water is obtained from the irrigation canals and pumped into 3 reservoirs with a total capacity of 9,100,000 gallons.

There are 16 fire hydrants conveniently located throughout the town.

12. TAX STRUCTURE

	1962 Net Assessment
Land, 100% of value	$116,920
Improvements, 100% of fair value	710,600
Business	108,045
Pipeline	5,720
Power	19,374
Total Assessment	$960,659

	Municipal	School	Hospital	Aux. Hospital	Total
Mill Rate	34.21	33.47	3.32	1.00	72 mills

13. AREAS

Area of town - 630.87 acres.

Streets, roads and lanes - 77.64 acres.

Parks and playgrounds - 3.43 acres.

Miles of roads, streets and lanes:

	Asphalt	Gravel	Unopened	Total
Provincial Main		1.5		1.5
Roads and Streets	.25	7.25	1.5	9
Lanes		2.5		2.5
		Total Miles		13

There are approximately 3⅔ miles of cement sidewalk and ½ mile of shale sidewalk.

14. SEWER AND WATER MAIN MILEAGE

Storm sewers - nil.

Sanitary sewers - 4 miles.

water mains - 4¾ miles.

15. POWER

Three phase 60 cycle power is supplied under a franchise by Calgary Power Ltd.

Domestic Rate

First 20 KWH or less used per month - $2.60 gross, subject to 30c prompt payment discount, making $2.30 net.

All additional KWH used per month - 1.5c per KWH.

Discount - as shown, applies on any bill paid within 10 days of date rendered.

Connection charge - $1.00.

Reconnection charge - twice the net minimum charge.

Commercial Rate

Available for lighting and general service in commercial establishments.

Service charge - First ½ KW of connected load - 30c.

Each additional ¼ KW of connected load - 10c.

Energy charge - First 50 KWH or less used per month - 10c per KWH.

Next 150 KWH used per month - 5c per KWH.

Excess KWH used per month - 2¼c per KWH.

Minimum charge - $1.80 gross, $1.50 net.

Discount - 10% within 10 days, based on even dollars of total bill with a minimum discount of 30c per month.

Consumer's deposit - twice the gross monthly minimum charge.

Reconnection charge - twice the net monthly minimum charge.

Power Rate

Available for motors and commercial heating apparatus used in commercial establishments.

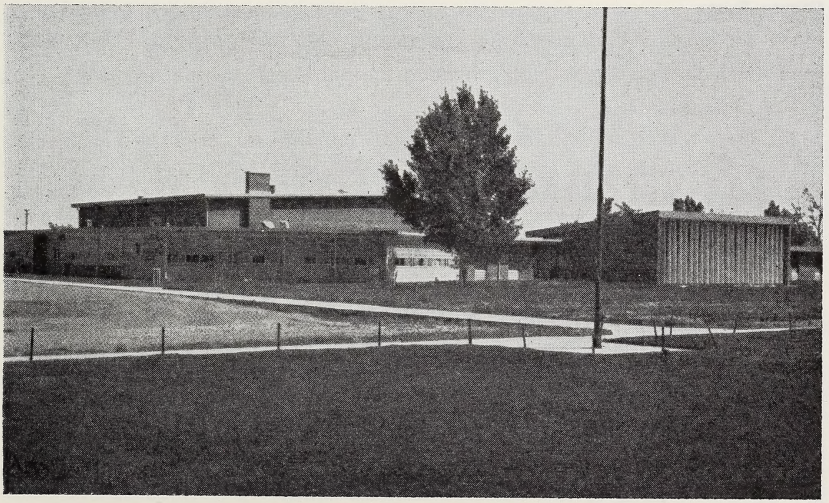
Service charge - per KVA of installation (monthly charge) - $1.00. (one motor horsepower or one kilowatt in heating apparatus considered equal to one kilovolt ampere - KVA.)

Energy charge - First 50 KWH per month per KVA of installation - 5c per KWH.

Next 50 KWH per month per KVA of installation - 3½c per KWH.

All over 100 KWH per month per KVA of installation - 1⅞c per KWH.

Discount - 10% within 10 days, based on the dollars of total bill, with a minimum discount of 30c per month.



Modern schools serve Vauxhall and district

Minimum charge - $3.30 gross; $3.00 net; or the amount of the service charge, whichever is greater.

Consumer's deposit - $2.00 per KVA of installation and not less than $6.00 or, at the company's option, twice the estimated bill.

Reconnection charge - $6.00.

16. WATER

Water is obtained from the irrigation reservoir and piped into a 9,000,000 gallon reservoir in the town. The water is filtered and chemically treated and pumped into a 100,000 gallon pure water storage reservoir and thence to the mains.

Water Analysis	Parts per Millon
Total Solids	537
Ignition Loss	147
Hardness	195
Sulphates	148
Chlorides	13
Alkalinity	181

Nature of Alkalinity - Bicarbonate of Lime and Magnesium

Nitrites	nil
Nitrates	nil
Iron	.2
Fluorine	trace

Remarks - Water suitable after iron is settled out.

Water Rates

Domestic - Flat rate $5.00 per month plus $2.50 sewerage charge.

Discount of 10% on both, provided the bill is paid within discount period.

Industrial basic -

- ⅝ inch service line - $5.00 per month
- ¾ inch service line - $7.00 per month
- 1 inch service line - $10.00 per month
- 1¼ inch service line - $12.00 per month
- 1½ inch service line - $15.00 per month
- 2 inch service line - $20.00 per month
- 3 inch service line - $30.00 per month
- 4 inch service line - $40.00 per month
- 6 inch service line - $60.00 per month

17. GAS

Natural gas is supplied under a franchise by Canadian Western Natural Gas Company Limited.

Rate No. 1 - General

Available to all customers.

First 2 MCF or less used per month - $3.25.

All additional MCF used per month - 67c per MCF.

Minimum monthly charge - $3.25.

When accounts are not paid on or before the due date, the charge per MCF other than the first 2 MCF shall be increased by 4c and the gross rate so arrived at shall apply.

Rate No. 2 - Optional

Available to all customers whose annual consumption is more than 550 MCF per year.

Fixed charge - $12.50 per month.

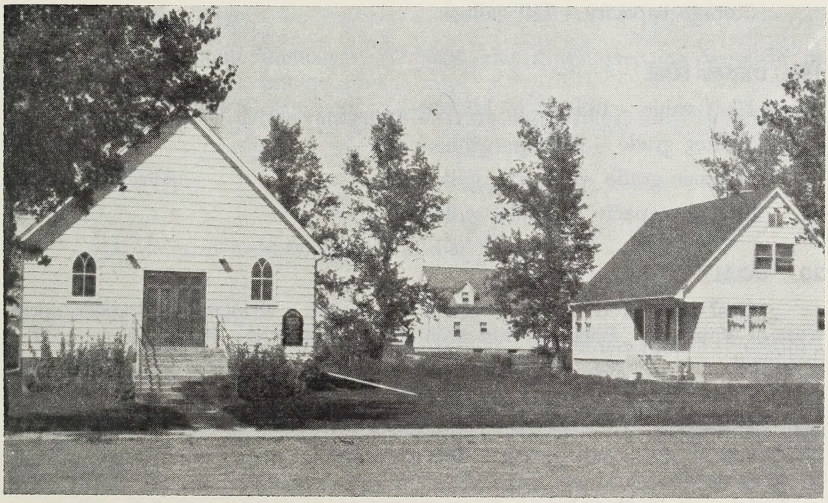
Plus commodity charge - 44c per MCF per month.

Minimum monthly charge - $12.50.

Available only on annual contract which shall continue from year to year thereafter until either party shall give to the other party at least 30 days prior to the expiration of any such year, a written notice of desire to terminate same, whereupon at the expiration of such year it shall cease and determine. When accounts are not paid on or before the due date, the charge per MCF shall be increased by 3c and the gross rate so arrived at shall apply.

Rate No. 3 - Off Peak or Interruptible Service

Available to customers whose annual consumption is more than 5,000 MCF, who either agree to use no gas in the five winter months of January,



Vauxhall's residential streets are neat and tree-lined

February, March, November and December, or who agree that their consumption in such months is subject to curtailment or interruption if the company's gas supplies and system facilities are required to maintain service to customers other than those receiving gas subject to such curtailment or interruption.

Fixed charge - $20.00 per month.

Plus commodity charge -

First 2,000 MCF used per month - 32c per MCF

Next 2,000 MCF used per month - 29c per MCF

All additional MCF used per month - 26c per MCF.

Minimum monthly charge - $20.00.

For service under this rate the customer agrees to curtail or discontinue the use of gas whenever and so often as requested to do so by the company. The company, however, if circumstances permit, will endeavour to give the customer advance notice of curtailment or cut-off by telephone or otherwise.

Customers served under this rate must give satisfactory evidence of their ability and willingness to discontinue the use of gas during periods of curtailment or interruption by the use of standby facilities, plant shutdowns or otherwise.

Gas supplied under this rate will be separately metered and not used interchangeably with gas supplied under any other rate.

18. L. P. GAS

Heat value - 2,521 b.t.u. per cu. ft. at 60° F.

100 lb. cylinders - $6.00.

Bulk - 15c per gallon.

Storage capacity - 750 gallons.

19. DIESEL FUEL

Heat value - 135,000 to 140,000 b.t.u. per gallon at 60° F.

Winter grade - 19.7c per gallon.

Summer grade -18.6c per gallon.

Storage capacity - 16,000 gallons.

20. COAL

Coal is secured from Kleenburn Collieries, a strip mine 24 miles northwest of Vauxhall. Price per ton at mine - $5.00. Very little coal is used in the town.

21. RESOURCES

Wheat and coarse grains, seeds (flax, alfalfa, peas, potatoes, corn, beans, etc.), cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, dairy products, poultry products, honey, coal, sand and gravel, oil and gas.

22. GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND SERVICES

Federal - Post Office, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, PFRA Bow River Project Headquarters, PFRA Drainage Division Headquarters, Dominion Irrigation Research Farm.

Provincial - Police Magistrate, Justice of the Peace, Alberta Government Telephones, Office of the Barons-Eureka Health Unit, District Agriculturist.

Municipal - Town Office housing (Secretary-Treasurer, Council Chamber, Police, Utilities and Public Works Supervisor and Inspector), Fire Hall, Civic Centre.

23. HEALTH SERVICES

There is no hospital in Vauxhall, the nearest being at Taber, 21 miles south.

Five doctors visit the town weekly, providing a doctor for three hours a day. Plans are underway for a resident doctor.

The Barons-Eureka Health Unit, with a resident nurse, examines preschool and school children.

1 drug store, 1 optometrist (calling).

24. PROFESSIONAL AND SKILLED PERSONAL SERVICES
(Excluding Health Services)

Type of Service	No. of Establishments
Accountants	3 (calling monthly)
Barber Shops	2
Beauty Parlor	1

25. TRANSPORTATION

Canadian Pacific Railway - Medicine Hat to Calgary via Vauxhall on Thursdays and Fridays, freight service only.

Local trucks - daily to and from Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat.

26. NEWSPAPERS

Nil.

Local news in a section of the Taber Times.

27. COMMUNICATIONS

Post Office, Alberta Government Telephones, Canadian Pacific Telegraphs.

Nearest Radio Stations at Lethbridge - CJOC, CHEC.

Nearest TV Station at Lethbridge - CJLH-TV.

28. FINANCIAL FACILITIES

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Bank of Nova Scotia.

29. HOTELS

	No. of Rooms	Single Rate	Beer License
Corona	15	$2.50 up	yes

30. TOURIST CAMPS

Nil.

31. CHURCHES

Anglican, Christian Reformed, Free Evangelical, Roman Catholic, United, Mennonite Brethren.

32. LODGES AND SERVICE CLUBS

Masonic, Eastern Star, Knights of Columbus, Foresters, Chamber of Commerce, Kinsmen, Lions, Canadian Legion, Women's Auxiliary Canadian Legion.

33. SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Agricultural Society, Farmers Co-operatives, Fish and Game Association, Home and School Association, Teachers Association, Registered Nurses Association, Riding and Roping Club.

34. EDUCATION

The Vauxhall School District No. 4053 is a unit of the Taber School Division No. 6. Grades 1 to 12 are taught along with the following optional subjects: Home Economics, Shop Mechanics, Woodwork, Typing, Drama and Art. The school population is made up as follows:

	Grades	No. of Teachers	No. of Pupils
Elementary	1 - 6	14	354
Junior High	7 - 9	6	164
High	10 - 12	8	121

35. THEATRES AND HALLS

	Capacity	Stage	Piano
Arch Theatre	300	yes	no
Community Hall	500	yes	yes
Legion Hall	150	no	yes
Foresters Hall	200	no	yes
Civic Centre (2	125	no	no
auditoriums)	150	yes	yes

36. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The Catholic Church supports a small library which has approximately 800 volumes. This library is open to the public. There is also a small library at the school which is available for the students.

Other Activities - Local 40 Piece Band, Tap Dancing, Square Dancing.

37. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Boys - Scouts, Cubs, 4 H Club.

Girls - Guides, C.G.I.T., Brownies, Explorers, 4 H Club.

38. SPORTS

Baseball, softball, golf, tennis, badminton, football, basketball, hockey, curling, fishing and hunting.

Facilities - Curling rink with 3 sheets artificial ice, covered skating and hockey rink with natural ice, baseball diamonds, grassed stadium, nine hole golf course with sand greens.

39. FAIRS

One day Fair and Exhibition.

40. HISTORIC SITES

Nil.

41. CO-OPERATIVES

Vauxhall Farmers Co-operative, Alberta Wheat Pool, Vauxhall Credit Union, Vauxhall Co-op Petroleums Ltd.

42. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Type of Industry or Business	No. of Establishments	Producer or Manufacturer	Wholesale	Retail
Accountants	3 calling			
Abattoir	1	1	1	—
Auctioneers	2	—	—	—
Auto Body Shop	1	—	—	1
Barbers	2	—	—	—
Banks	2	—	—	—
Beauty Parlor	1	—	—	—
Blacksmith	1	1	—	1
Building Contractors	2	—	—	—
Cartage Delivery	1	—	—	—
Cattle Buyers	3	—	—	—
Clothing (men's and women's)	2	—	—	2
Coal Dealer	1	—	—	1
Coin Laundry and Dry Cleaner	1	1	—	1
Dehydrating Plant	1	1	1	1
Dry Goods	1	—	—	1
Doctors	5 calling			
Drug Store	1	—	—	1
Electrical Appliances	3	—	—	3
Electrical Contractors	2	—	—	—
Experimental Farm	1	—	—	—
P.F.R.A.	1	—	—	—
Garages and Service Stations	9	—	—	9
General Store	1	—	—	1
Grain Elevators	5 (total cap. 340,000 bushels)			
Groceries	4	—	—	4
Hardware Stores	3	—	—	3
Hotels	1	—	—	—
Implements (farm)	5	—	—	5
Insurance and Real Estate	2	—	—	—
Lumber Yards	2	—	2	2
Milk Distributors	1	—	1	1
Oil Distributors	8	—	8	—
Optometrist	1 calling			
Painters and Decorators	1	—	—	—
Plumbers	3	—	—	—
Propane Gas Distributor	1	—	1	1
Radio Repairs	1	—	—	—
Restaurants	3	—	—	—
Shoe Repairs	1	—	—	1
Shoe Store	1	—	—	1
Theatre	1	—	—	—
Truck Transports	3	—	—	—
Welding & Machine Shop	1	1	—	1

43. SITES

Industrial and residential property served with all utilities, adjacent to trackage and highway, can be purchased from the town or private owners at reasonable prices.

44. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Wheat, cattle and specialty products grown under irrigation, provide the principal sources of farm cash income, thus there are farms of every size and description in the area. Classification of farms in the Municipal District of Taber on the basis of size are: up to 239 acres - 34%; to 759 acres - 31%; to 1,599 acres - 25%; over 1,600 acres - 10%.

Obviously averages for the district are not too meaningful. However, the relative importance of field crops grown is indicated by the average area per farm devoted to each: wheat 172 acres, oats 16 acres, barley 26 acres, flaxseed 22 acres, tame hay 11 acres. The average number of livestock per farm is as follows: 31 cattle, 17 sheep, 15 hogs, 28 hens.

Fifty-one per cent of the farmers own all the land they operate, 33% lease land in addition to their own, 1% of the farms are managed, and 15% are rented.

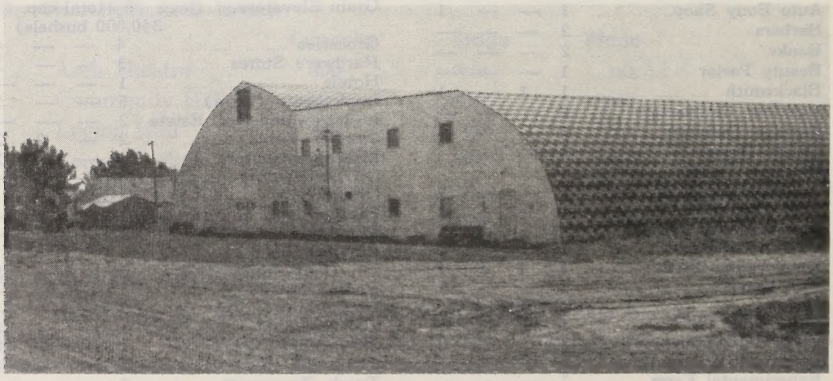
45. TRADING AREA

North 25 miles; West 25 miles; South 10 miles; East 20 miles.

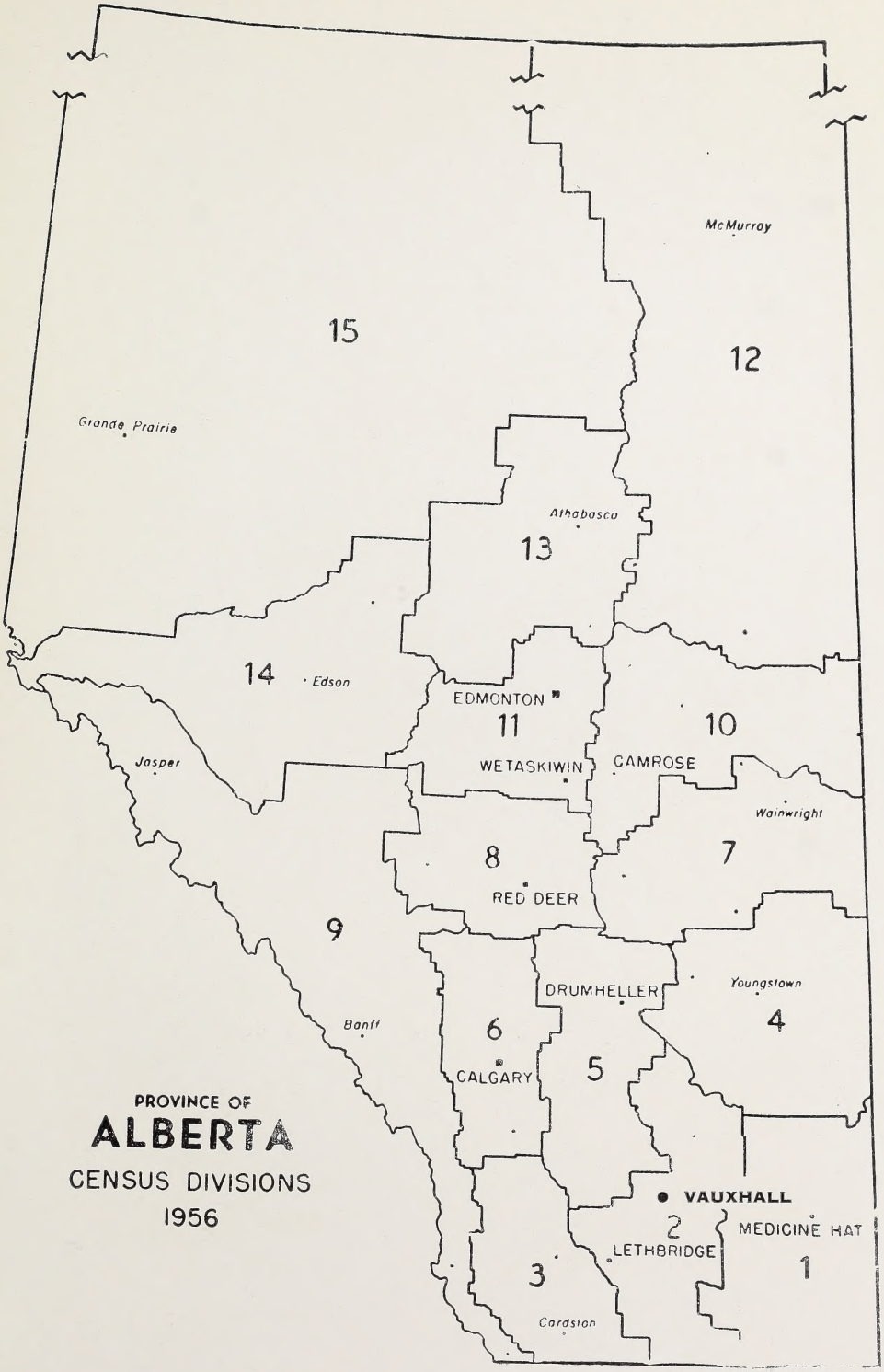
46. POPULATION

Trading area population 1961 Dominion Census - 8,128.

Town population, 1961 Dominion Census - 942.



Curling and skating rinks serve sportsmen of the district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12
Grande Prairie
Athabasca
13
14
Edson
EDMONTON
11
10
Jasper
WETASKIWIN
CAMROSE
Wainwright
8
7
RED DEER
9
DRUMHELLER
Youngstown
Banff
6
4
CALGARY
5
PROVINCE OF
ALBERTA
CENSUS DIVISIONS
1956
VAUXHALL
2
MEDICINE HAT
LETHBRIDGE
3
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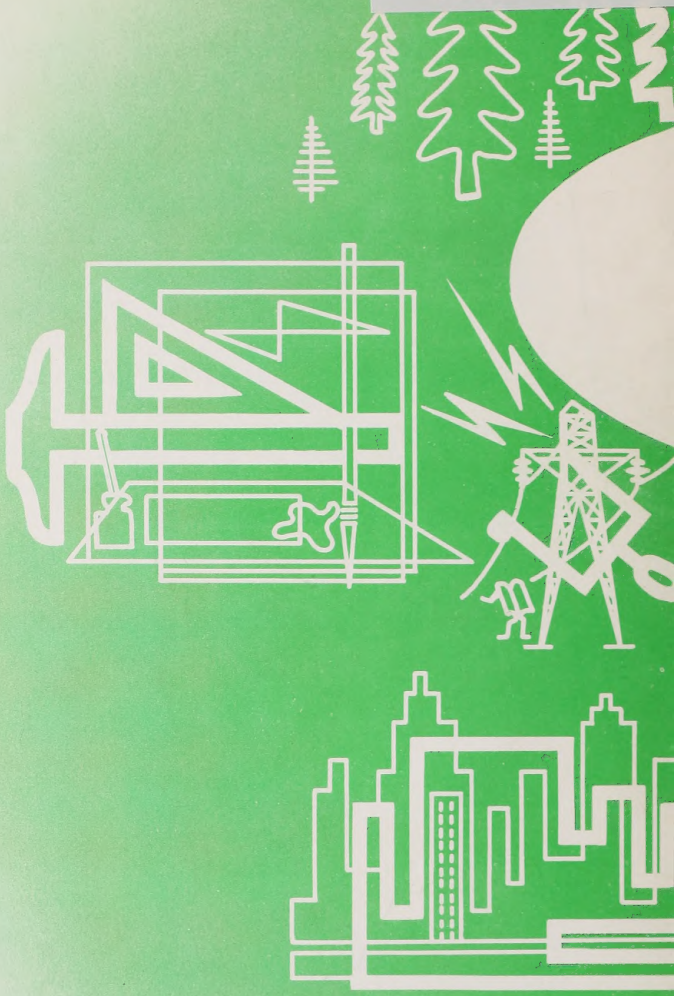
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